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Letter dated 12 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (see annex) demanding that Russian occupation authorities cease repressions against Crimean Tatars.

I would appreciate your having this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine demanding that Russian occupation authorities cease repressions against Crimean Tatars

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is deeply alarmed that the outrageous and illegal activities of Russian occupation authorities in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea against the Crimean Tatars, resulted in massive illegal searches and groundless detention of 13 citizens of Ukraine, representatives of the Crimean Tatar people, on 11 and 12 February 2016.

By committing flagrant violations of human rights and freedoms of our citizens who are held hostages on their own land by the Russian occupation regime as a result of Russian military aggression against Ukraine, the Kremlin repeats today, in the twenty-first century, the horrible Soviet repressions in the 1930s and the genocide of the Crimean Tatars in 1944.

It is particularly outrageous that the Kremlin tends to hide its genocide politics against Crimean Tatars behind the smokescreen of a sham fight against terrorism.

Ukraine calls on the Russian Federation to stop immediately political repressions against citizens of Ukraine and to release the illegally detained Emir Ussein Kuku, Vadim Sirik, Enver Belirov, Eldar Selyamiyev and Muslim Aliyev.

We also call on the democratic world to increase joint tangible pressure on the Russian occupant-state as the ongoing events in the occupied Crimea are not only a flagrant violation of international law but also blatant disrespect for all universal human values.